

A NEW MELIOBBA FROM THE SCHRADER RANGE, NEW GUINEA

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Through the kindness of Dr. D. F. McMichael, of the Australian Museum, Sydney, we received a new and unique specimen of *Meliobba*, a genus in the sub-family Papuininae.

Meliobba is a genus of wide distribution in New Guinea and in northern Queensland, Australia. Individual specimens of all species appear to be quite rare, judging by the very few specimens we have seen.

Genus MELIOBBA Iredale.

Meliobba Iredale, 1940, *Aust. Nat.*, 10: 240. Type species by monotypy, *Meliobba shafferyi* Iredale.

Meliobba helenae sp. nov.

Description: Shell reaching 40 mm. in greatest diameter, rather solid in structure, but thin, rimately perforate and finely sculptured. Whorls $4\frac{1}{2}$, depressed, and having an exceedingly sharp peripheral keel. Colour a mottled gray and brown on the early whorls, changing to greenish gray on the body whorl; interior of shell a dark mahogany-brown. Spire depressed, obtuse and cast at an angle of 120° . Aperture ovate and produced at an angle of about 30° from the base of the shell. Parietal area glazed with dark mahogany-brown. Palatal lip white, thin and reflected. Columella short and somewhat broadened. Suture indistinct. Umbilicus nearly covered by the columella reflection. Sculpture both above and below the periphery consisting of numerous fine, axial ridges and growth lines which parallel the margin of the lip. The surface above the periphery near the aperture is slightly malleated. Nuclear whorls 2, the apex brownish and with fine recurved thread-like ridges emanating from the suture.

The upper surface of the foot is brownish-yellowish in colour; the sole is deep ivory, becoming yellow near the margin. The remainder of the body is dark brown. The tentacles, when fully extended, are very long, nearly black, with swollen yellow-brown tips and minute black eyes. The genital pore is at the base of the right tentacle, and is margined with yellow-brown.

Dimensions:	Height	Greater diameter	
	22.5 mm.	40 mm.	Holotype.

Types: The holotype is in the Australian Museum, No. C.62378, and is from Asai-Simbai Divide, Schrader Range, a few miles due west of Aiome, Territory of New Guinea (Aiome is at $05^{\circ} 05' S$; $144^{\circ} 50' E$) at 5000 feet, collected by R. Bulmer, February 24, 1960.

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Remarks: *Meliobba helenae* differs from all other species in this genus by having the sculpture composed of very fine axial threads and not the more or less spirally arranged, interlacing ridges that are characteristic of all other species. It also differs from all others by its exceedingly acute keel. Named for Mrs. Donald (Helen) McMichael.



PLATE 3.

Meliobba helenae Clench and Turner. Holotype. Australian Museum,
No. C.62378 (x 2).